

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An aqueous formulation comprising:
 - 5 a. a block copolymer;
 - b. a polyethylene glycol (PEG); and
 - c. 2,6-diisopropylphenol.
2. A formulation according to claim 1, wherein the amount of 2,6-diisopropylphenol is:
 - 10 a. at least 1% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - b. from 1 to 5% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - c. from 1 to 2% (w/v) of said formulation; or
 - d. 1% (w/v) of said formulation.
3. A formulation according to claim 1, wherein the block copolymer is:
 - 15 a. less than about 10% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - b. from 5 to 10% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - c. 6 to 8% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - d. a poloxamer;
 - 20 e. selected from the group consisting of P188, P407 and P237; or
 - f. P188.
4. A formulation according to claim 1, wherein the total amount of PEG is:
 - 25 a. less than about 5% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - b. between 3 and 4% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - c. selected from the group consisting of PEG-200, PEG-300, PEG-400, PEG-600 and PEG-800;
 - d. PEG-400.
5. A formulation according to claim 1, which formulation further comprises:
 - 30 a. a tonicity modifier;

- b. a tonicity modifier selected from the group consisting of; lactose, dextrose, dextrose anhydrous, mannitol, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, propylene glycol and glycerol;
 - c. propylene glycol;
 - 5 d. propylene glycol in an amount not more than 5% (w/v) of said formulation; or
 - e. propylene glycol in an amount not more than 2% (w/v) of said formulation.
6. A formulation according to claim 1, which further comprises:
- a. citric acid;
 - 10 b. citric acid at a concentration between 2.5 and 10 mM;
 - c. an antimicrobial agent;
 - d. an antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of disodium edetate, metabisulfate, benzyl alcohol, cysteine or a salt thereof, and EDTA;
 - e. benzyl alcohol; or
 - 15 f. benzyl alcohol present in an amount up to 0.5% (w/v) of said formulation.
7. An aqueous formulation comprising:
- a. poloxamer 188 in an amount between 6 and 8% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - a polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount between 2 and 4% (w/v) of
 - 20 said formulation; propylene glycol in an amount not greater than 2% (w/v) of said formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount between 1 and 2% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - b. poloxamer 237 in an amount of about 3% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 6% (w/v) of said
 - 25 formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of said formulation;
 - c. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 8% (w/v) of said formulation
 - polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 4% (w/v) of said
 - 30 formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of said formulation;

d. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 8% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 3% (w/v) of said
formulation; propylene glycol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation;

e. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 8% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 4% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation, wherein said formulation is substantially free of propylene
glycol;

f. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 8% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 3% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation, wherein said formulation is substantially free of propylene
glycol;

g. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 7% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 4% (w/v) of said
formulation; propylene glycol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation;

h. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 7% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 4% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation, wherein said formulation is substantially free of propylene
glycol;

i. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 7% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 3% (w/v) of said
formulation; propylene glycol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation;

j. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 7% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 3% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation, wherein said formulation is substantially free of propylene
glycol;

k. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 6% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 4% (w/v) of said
formulation; propylene glycol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation;

l. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 6% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 4% (w/v) of said
formulation; propylene glycol in an amount of about 2% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation;

m. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 6% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 6% (w/v) of said
formulation; propylene glycol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation;

n. poloxamer 188 in an amount of about 6% (w/v) of said formulation;
polyethylene glycol (PEG)-400 in an amount of about 6% (w/v) of said
formulation; and 2,6-diisopropylphenol in an amount of about 1% (w/v) of
said formulation, wherein said formulation is substantially free of propylene
glycol.

8. A formulation according to claim 7, which further comprises:

- a. citric acid at a concentration between 2.5 and 10 mM;
- b. citric acid in an amount of about 20 mg per 10 milliliters of said formulation;
- c. benzyl alcohol in an amount of about 0.45% (w/v) of said formulation.

9. A method selected from the group consisting of:

a. administering propofol to a patient, which method comprises administering to said patient an aqueous formulation according to claim 1;

5 b. treating a patient, which method comprises administering to said patient an aqueous formulation according to claim 1;

c. inducing anesthesia in a patient, which method comprises administering to said patient an amount of a formulation according to claim 1 such that the patient receives an amount of propofol effective to induce anesthesia; and

10 d. maintaining anesthesia in a patient, which method comprises administering to said patient an amount of a formulation according to claim 1 such that the patient receives an amount of propofol effective to maintain anesthesia.